

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A stabilizer bar for an automotive vehicle comprising:

a body formed of a first material, extending between first and second ends, a length of the body near at least one of the first end and second end being formed with a circular cylindrical outer surface;

an end link secured to at least one of said first end and said second end by a lock washer that frictionally engages an outer surface of said body, said end link including a body portion, and a bore including a concave spherical inner support surface that extends transversely through the body portion; and

a spherical bearing formed from material other than the first material, including a convex spherical outer surface located in the bore and contacting the inner support surface, and a circular cylindrical opening extending through the bearing, the cylindrical outer surface of said length of the body being located in the opening and secured to the end link.

2. (withdrawn) The stabilizer bar of claim 1 wherein said stabilizer bar includes at least one groove formed adjacent said first and second ends, said stabilizer bar including a device engaging said at least one groove to secure said end link onto said stabilizer bar.

3. (withdrawn) The stabilizer bar of claim 2 wherein said device is a snap ring.

4. (canceled)

5. (withdrawn) The stabilizer bar of claim 4 wherein said device is a collar that is in frictional engagement with said outer surface of said stabilizer bar.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The stabilizer bar of claim 6 1 wherein said lock washer is positioned on said body such that said lock washer is positioned between said end link and an end of said body.

8. (withdrawn) The stabilizer bar of claim 5 wherein said lock washer is embedded within said spherical bearing wherein once said end link is placed onto said stabilizer bar said spherical bearing will be frictionally secured thereon, thereby securing said end link to said stabilizer bar.

9. (currently amended) The stabilizer bar of claim 1 wherein said stabilizer bar includes a hollow portion near said end of said stabilizer bar and said end link is secured on said stabilizer bar by an end cap positioned within said hollow portion and frictionally engaging an inner surface of said hollow portion.

10. (withdrawn) The stabilizer bar of claim 9 wherein said end cap includes a radially extending flange that engages said spherical bearing, and a deformable insert that is selectively compressed thereby causing said deformable insert to expand outward against said inner surface of said hollow portion to frictionally engage said inner surface of said hollow portion.

11. (currently amended) The stabilizer bar of claim 1 wherein said stabilizer bar includes a hollow portion near said end of said stabilizer bar and said end link is secured on said stabilizer bar by an end cap positioned within said hollow portion and mechanically engaging an inner surface of said hollow portion.

12. (withdrawn) The stabilizer bar of claim 11 wherein said hollow portion includes a threaded inner surface and said end cap is a threaded fastener, said threaded fastener engaging said threaded inner surface of said hollow portion to secure said

threaded fastener and said spherical bearing onto said stabilizer bar.

13. (withdrawn) The stabilizer bar of claim 11 wherein said inner surface of said hollow stabilizer bar includes circumferential channels extending at least partially thereabout and said end cap includes a radially extending flange that engages said spherical bearing and a deformable insert having ridges extending radially outward and around said deformable insert wherein said ridges engage said channels to secure said end cap within said hollow portion.

14. (original) The stabilizer bar of claim 1 wherein said spherical bearing is formed from a polymeric material.

15. (previously presented) The stabilizer bar of claim 14 wherein said spherical bearing mechanically engages an outer surface of said body.

16. (withdrawn) The stabilizer bar of claim 15 wherein said stabilizer bar includes circumferential channels extending at least partially thereabout and said spherical bearing includes a plurality of ridges extending radially inward such that said ridges engage said channels to secure said spherical bearing onto said stabilizer bar, thereby securing said end link to said stabilizer bar.

17. (withdrawn) The stabilizer bar of claim 15 wherein said spherical bearing includes circumferential channels extending at least partially thereabout and said stabilizer bar includes a plurality of ridges extending radially outward such that said ridges engage said channels to secure said spherical bearing onto said stabilizer bar, thereby securing said end link to said stabilizer bar.

18. (previously presented) The stabilizer bar of claim 1 wherein said end link is secured to said body by an adhesive disposed between and interconnecting said spherical bearing and an outer surface of said body.

19. (withdrawn) The stabilizer bar of claim 1 wherein said end link is secured to said stabilizer bar by a washer that is welded onto said stabilizer bar.

20. (withdrawn) The stabilizer bar of claim 4 wherein said device is a lock washer that is embedded within the spherical bearing and is in functional engagement with said outer surface of said body.

21. (currently amended) A stabilizer bar for an automotive vehicle comprising:

a body including a first end, a length of the body near the first end being formed with a circular cylindrical outer surface;

an end link including a body portion, and a bore including a concave spherical inner support surface that extends transversely through the body portion, said end link being secured to said body by a lock washer that frictionally engages an outer surface of said body; and

a spherical bearing including a convex spherical outer surface located in the bore and contacting the inner support surface, and a circular cylindrical opening extending through the bearing, said length of the body extending through the opening and secured to the end link.

22. (previously presented) The stabilizer bar of claim 21 wherein the circular cylindrical outer surface has a first axis, and the circular cylindrical opening extending through the bearing has a second axis that is substantially coaxial with the first axis.

23. (canceled)

24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended) The stabilizer bar of claim 24 21 wherein said lock washer is positioned on said body such that said lock washer is positioned between said end link and an end of said body.

26. (previously presented) The stabilizer bar of claim 21 wherein said spherical bearing is formed from a polymeric material.

27. (previously presented) The stabilizer bar of claim 21 wherein said end link is secured to said body by an adhesive disposed between and interconnecting said spherical bearing and an outer surface of said body.

28. (withdrawn) The stabilizer bar of claim 23 wherein said device is a lock washer that is embedded within the spherical bearing and engages the outer surface of said body.

29. (withdrawn) The stabilizer bar of claim 23 wherein said device is a lock washer that is embedded within the spherical bearing and engages the support surface.